

Charleston 23 Mar 1882

Prof. Wm Gray, Cambridge Mass
My dear Sir,

See on looking over your
last letter that you ~~wish~~ to know whether
Aster exilis is to be found in Elliott's
Herb. I have overlooked this request I
am sorry to say. I have been very busy
the month past, and besides much
occupied and harassed with College
work under difficult circumstances,
and averse to undertaking any more labor.
I will make the search as soon as I can, for
the Curator can hardly undertake it. I
have found through life that much work
has, of necessity, almost, fallen to my lot,
for which no one else was immediately ready.
I know that I on this account am looked upon
as a jack-of-all-trades-and-master-of-none,
but of my work and others, I am satis-
fied, as it is doubtless just the work

hand below so that it must be genuine.
The features in advanced years must dif-
fer from the adult face, but frequently,
the likeness may be traced, as in two ~~portraits~~
of Harvey that have, but in yours not
only are the features entirely unlike, but
the shape of the head seems to have altered.
Have you the likeness of Croom that I gave
Dr. Torrey also for you?

I thought of saying something about moun-
tain plants, but I remember I sent you some,
25 years ago, and your eyes could see no diff-
erence where they seemed obvious enough to
me, so that I had better let the matter rest,
and I have hardly time to talk now,

Very truly yours
Lewis R. Gibbs.

God in his wisdom has appointed for me. Will write you as soon as I can make the search.

Do not be deterred from asking for Elliott's Herb., by my saying that the specimens borrowed 40 years ago are not now to be found. I did not write to prevent the request, but ^{to} prevent dis-appointment, if you desired to see some of them again. I wish also to know what you could tell about their return. I don't think there is any need to make a search in the Torrey Herb. for the missing plants, as I spent a week in the ^{Doctor's} house 11 years ago and made inquiry then of him, and looked among Compositae in his Herb. Then located in a building near his house on the College grounds in N. York. Dr. Bachman deposited the Ell. Herb. in our College Museum some 15 or 16 yrs since, and I have been over it pretty carefully since, including several extra

packages but these ^{miss.} plants have not appeared. It is just possible that they were not again distributed, ^{by Dr. B.} in their proper places, the packages perhaps remaining unopened even until the war, and then sent to Columbia by mistake with his own property. If so, they are irretrievably lost, for his whole library and herbarium &c. were all destroyed in the burning of Columbia in Feb. 1865.

I will make two suggestions. Did any one work at the Compositae after the publications of the 2^d vol. of Torrey's N. A., ^{who might have borrowed them,}? Can you refer to any record of the plants then borrowed from Ell. Herb.? If so, I may verify their presence or absence in the Herb.

I thank you for your photograph, but I would never have recognized it as yours. At first I supposed you had written to the photographer to send me ^{an} ~~one~~ of his stock negatives, and that he had copied the wrong one, but I see your name in your